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POMP *and* POSSIBILITY

Matt LaForge
VIEWS EDITOR
Metro | Toronto

You can't help but be proud.

Even if you don't want to be.

If you're the kind of Canadian predisposed to be charmed by these two beautiful, smiling heads of neighbouring states standing shoulder to shoulder, flanked by their beautiful, smiling families, alternately snapping on each other and bigging each other up while addressing the world's most consequential problems, then the Trudeaus' date with the Obamas might make you feel as if anything is possible. You only wish they could have more time together.

And if you're not that kind of Canadian, you're still a Canadian. You still want your country to be taken seriously. You still want it to have influence.

So, yes, for the first time, our political culture has produced a figure of such glamour and charisma that a U.S. administration sees advantage in debuting him into society. As others have pointed out, not even Pierre pulled that off.

But also, more important, the normal northward flow of political influence has reversed itself. The U.S. government is suddenly saying it's ready to learn from ours. And, as Canadians all across the political spectrum have long contended, there's a thing or two we could teach them.

More on Trudeau-Obama love-in, page 7

U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama greet Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau at the White House in Washington Thursday for a state dinner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'I have never seen so many Americans excited about the visit of a Canadian prime minister' — Barack Obama
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BUDGET

‘Unfair choice’ looms for education system

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

The Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) is backing the Winnipeg School Division (WSD) in calling for a new funding model for education in the province.

Association president Ken Cameron said school boards have been concerned for many years “that the current education funding model is overly reliant on property taxes.”

> We are hopeful that our ongoing efforts ... will lead to a more equitable funding model.
> WSD chair Mark Wasyliw

Cameron echoes the same sentiment from WSD chair Mark Wasyliw, whose divisional budget could mean a 5.9 per cent tax hike this year.

Near the end of the budget consultation in February, Wasyliw said “the province has put (school divisions) in a horrible position,” with the ultimatum between “firing teachers and raising taxes.”

He said it’s “an unfair choice” for an education system to have.

Cameron said the MSBA has expressed that concern “to successive provincial administrations for three decades.”

But the call hasn’t been answered definitively and can’t keep up with growing operating costs, often associated with provincially mandated requirements such as student-teacher rations.

The Winnipeg School division’s costs are increasing by 2.3 per cent, but the province is offering just a one per cent increase in grants, which is why Wasyliw said something needs to change lest the burden continue to fall to taxpayers.

“We have recently called for a task force to review the education funding model, in partnership with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, to once again explore alternate funding options,” said Cameron, adding that a new model would ideally “provide school boards with the financial flexibility they need to provide for their communities’ needs.”

TAX HIKES

Below are the proposed tax increases in each school division:

- Winnipeg: 5%
- Louis Riel: 4.89%
- Pembina Trails: 4.8%
- River East Transcona: 4%
- Seven Oaks: 5.5%
- St James Assiniboia: 3.4%

Transcona pool up for potential closure

FINANCIAL PLAN

City councillor calls out mayor as budget hints at service cuts

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

A department director dropped the first hint of potential service cuts contained in Winnipeg’s 2016 preliminary budgets.

Clive Wightman, director of community services, told Thursday’s meeting of protection, community services and parks that roughly $47,000 in savings is noted for 2017 in this year’s books, anticipating a potential closure of the Bernie Wolfe pool.

He pointed out nothing is for certain, and any decision to close the pool, which is attached to Bernie Wolfe Community School, would require subsequent approval.

That prompted Transcona-area councillor Russ Wyatt to launch a line of questioning at department staff, demanding to know who directed Wightman to take him aside during a committee break to inform him that future meetings were needed to discuss the fate of the pool in his ward.

Wyatt said afterwards he initially understood that operating the pool cost the city $150,000 and wanted to see that cash used to borrow upwards of $3 million in order to upgrade to a new, expanded facility.

Coun. Russ Wyatt has raised concerns over the fate of Bernie Wolfe pool. METRO FILE

But on Thursday he said he learned that operating costs of the pool had decreased to around $61,000.

“I’m guessing they’ve cut the hours of the pool in the last year,” Wyatt said afterwards. “So they’re pushing the pool really out of existence, which is really unfortunate.”

Under questioning from Wyatt, Wightman named Mayor Brian Bowman’s executive policy committee and budget working group as parties that were made aware of the potential to close the pool.

“Departments every year bring a number of options before the EPC and the budget working group that are either acted up or not,” Bowman said when asked about the situation.

“It was as a result of discussions with the councillor that the department had recommended we consider closing Bernie Wolfe pool.”

During Thursday’s meeting, Wightman also said the city’s chief financial officer Mike Ruta instructed him to talk to Wyatt about the situation.

Wyatt, who has been a vocal critic of this year’s budget, chided the potential pool closure as a “bullying tactic” by Bowman.

“Especially if you’re an outspoken councillor, and you’re raising questions about the budget and you’re challenging them on their facts ... they don’t like to be challenged.”

Bowman rebuffed the accusation made by Wyatt as to his administration’s game-playing with the new budget.

“I think you could look at the track record of the former finance chair and former admiration in terms of how they built budgets … and I think we’ve made some positive steps in the right direction. When councillor Wyatt was chair there was a process that we’ve improved upon.”

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Police chief to retire

PUBLIC SAFETY

Devon Clunis says his 'goal has been achieved'

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg Police Chief Devon Clunis is retiring.

Clunis made the startling announcement Thursday to media at the Public Safety Building, saying the decision lets him spend more time with his wife.

"I took on the job with specific goals in mind," he said, "wanting to transform the very nature of policing in our city.

"That goal has been achieved."

His priority in that mission was making a difference in preventing "crime and disorder ... by raising the social consciousness in our community, and understanding that much of the crime we deal with is socially constructed."

In the last year, he saw that mission engrained in the strategic plan the police board and service adopted in 2015.

"It's become incredibly clear to me that — with the incredible assistance of the men and women of the Winnipeg Police Service, and our citizens alike, that I have accomplished the purpose that was set before me ... and why I took on the role as chief," Clunis said.

Mayor Brian Bowman said the announcement "came as a surprise," and lauded the chief for having been a critical part of the city for his almost 30 years of service.

Police Chief Devon Clunis says after nearly 30 years of service, he is retiring from the WPS. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

> **I have accomplished the purpose that was set before me.**
> Devon Clunis

"Since becoming chief, you've effectively engaged your members, your staff, and you engaged our entire community," Bowman told Clunis at the retirement announcement.

"You should feel confident today that you'll be leaving a police force that is stronger ... a service that is better than when you started."

Police board chair Scott Gillingham said the board was "truly sorry to receive the news" of Clunis' retirement.

Gillingham said the task of replacing the outgoing leader would begin "immediately," and that details on the process would be released to the public shortly.

NOT FLEEING IN FACE OF CUTS

Clunis gave no credence to rumours his departure from the position had anything to do with the city's budget.

Early Thursday, police board member Coun. Ross Eadie said the chief's retirement was connected to the potential slashing of 80 officers in the proposed budget. Clunis said it didn't factor into his decision "whatsoever."

Police board chair Coun. Scott Gillingham further rebuked Eadie's comments.

"Frankly, for (Eadie) to tie the chief's resignation to the budget in any way is, in my mind, reckless (and) unfair to the chief ... unfair to the board ... unfair to council," he said, adding that the police budget would be presented in full on Friday.

REACTION

Retirement a 'loss' for citizens, co-workers

Winnipeg Police Chief Devon Clunis said he had "no reservations" in announcing his retirement Thursday, but there's a contingent of people who probably wish he hadn't: both citizens of Winnipeg, and police officers alike.

"We've enjoyed working with (Clunis) immensely," said George Van Mackelbergh, vice-president of the Winnipeg Police Association.

On behalf of the members of the police service, Van Mackelbergh said the outgoing chief was appreciated for being "a principled man."

"When you look at him, he has attempted always to have a proper 360-degree look at issues before he acts," Van Mackebergh said, adding it's something that the citizens of Winnipeg appreciated, too.

Clunis has, during his tenure as chief, been a supporter of raising the consciousness of the community and "understanding that much of (the) crime is socially constructed."

Success in his mandate to address the social roots of crime and work with community partners is something Van Mackelbergh said is probably "a piece of the puzzle of why he's leaving."

Still, he said the retirement announcement "is a tremendous loss to the citizens of Winnipeg."

"I've served under some really great police chiefs, and here's one that had the ability to really connect with the public," he said. "That's who we are here to serve.

"The public had a police chief that truly took the time and made the effort to listen to what they needed."

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

Big gun to review budget law

ECONOMY

Province hires former Bank of Canada head David Dodge

David Dodge will review the law, which was introduced by the former Progressive Conservative government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba's NDP government is hiring former Bank of Canada governor David Dodge to review the province's controversial balanced budget law, although the examination will not begin until after the April 19 provincial election.

Premier Greg Selinger said Wednesday the law, which constrains the government's ability to raise taxes and penalizes cabinet ministers for running deficits, is due for an update and a broader focus.

"There's social deficits, there's fiscal deficits, there's environmental deficits. I mean, all of these things need to be balanced off with each other," Selinger said.

"If you have high rates of unemployment but you're balancing the budget, you kind of miss the point, right?"

The law — formally called the Balanced Budget, Fiscal Management and Taxpayer Accountability Act — was introduced by the former Progressive Conservative government and has been a political thorn in the NDP government's side for years.

It forces pay cuts of up to 40 per cent on all cabinet ministers when the government is in deficit. It also requires a referendum before any increase to income, sales or business payroll taxes.

The NDP has been running deficits since 2009 and has changed the law several times — limiting the pay cut for cabinet ministers at 20 per cent, allowing for deficits when Crown corporation profits drop sharply. Each change has prompted accusations of fiscal mismanagement from the Opposition Progressive Conservatives.

The change that stirred up the most controversy came in 2013, when the government suspended the requirement for a referendum on tax hikes and increased the provincial sales tax to eight per cent from seven.

Selinger said all governments have been grappling with deficits since the economic slowdown of 2008.

Dodge brings a wealth of experience, Selinger said, and is respected around the world.

Dodge was hired last year by the NDP government in Alberta to advise on the best level of infrastructure spending in the coming years. He was governor of the Bank of Canada from 2001 to 2008, and was a deputy finance minister with the federal Liberal government in the 1990s.

Opposition PC Leader Brian Pallister has promised to restore some of the balanced budget provisions that were removed by the NDP.

"Sustainable money management is something we all have to do on our own … and governments shouldn't be different," Pallister said.

Dodge will begin his work in May — possibly under a new government — and is expected to issue his report within a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Milestone exhibition

CULTURE

Gallery marks 30 years with showcase of kids' projects

A young student of an art gallery class made this sculpture.
COURTESY WINNIPEG ART GALLERY

Each spring the Winnipeg Art Gallery presents Through the Eyes of a Child, an exhibition of works created by children enrolled in its WAG Studio art classes.

This year marks a milestone: It's the show's 30th anniversary plus the 80th anniversary of WAG Studio, which the gallery describes as the oldest civic art gallery education program in the country.

There will be works by about 500 children and, as an added bonus, creations by established Manitoba artists who are past WAG Studio students or instructors. The names include Wanda Koop — winner of a 2016 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, announced March 7 — Jordan Van Sewell, Diane Whitehouse and Tim Schouten.

For the children, "to see their vibrant work alongside that of established artists will be so inspiring," WAG Studio manager Diane Lafournaise said.

Koop credits free art classes she took as a child at the WAG with having a profound effect.

"I know the power of art to transform lives, so it was that early opportunity of getting those first free art classes that changed my life," Koop told the Winnipeg Free Press. An open house, free to the public, is planned to kick off the exhibition, which runs from March 26 to May 8.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STATE OF EMERGENCY

North Americans rally to Cross Lake's aid

A northern Manitoba reserve which has declared a state of emergency as it grapples with a suicide crisis is receiving calls of help from across North America.

Shirley Robinson, acting chief of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation known as Cross Lake, says the community has been overwhelmed by the support it has received since the crisis was declared Wednesday.

She says church groups, counsellors and concerned citizens have been offering to help the grief-stricken community 500 kilometres north of Winnipeg.

"That means a lot to us," Robinson said Thursday. "It touches the community."

A provincial mental-health team has yet to arrive, but Robinson said she's confident the federal and Manitoba governments are working on a response.

Robinson said the reserve is just trying to hold on until help arrives. The nursing station is staffed by just two people overnight, when most calls come in.

"Once I see action happening, it sort of brings down the worries that we have," said Robinson, whose cousin was the latest person to commit suicide.

Six people have taken their own lives in the last two months and 140 others have either attempted or threatened to kill themselves in the last two weeks.

"I'm always on a watchful eye for Facebook. I've seen posts on Facebook and immediately I take action," she said. "This is something that needs to be looked at as a priority."

Manitoba Aboriginal Affairs Minister Eric Robinson, who is from Pimicikamak Cree Nation, said the province is working with Ottawa and is waiting for a formal letter from the reserve.

Band councillor Donnie McKay said help was needed weeks ago: "They know this is happening. We made them aware of it. Why do they want a letter first?" he asked. "Why wait for a letter when there is a life-and-death situation here?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Wainwright wings it with WSO

ENTERTAINMENT

Pop performer puts faith in orchestra as quick learners

Meg Crane
For Metro | Winnipeg

Rufus Wainwright is bringing the best of his work to the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra this weekend.

"It's a quick turnover. I arrive in the morning and we rehearse and we perform that night," said the Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter, author, composer and screen actor.

He expects his performance with the WSO will deepen over the three days.

"By the third night, we're going to really be on fire," Wainwright said.

Wainwright said professional and high calibre bands, such as the WSO, are able to put together shows such as this without rehearsing much with him beforehand.

Rufus Wainwright says he'll rehearse the day he performs — and then it's showtime with the Winnipeg symphony. CONTRIBUTED

He knows the musicians sacrifice a lot and dedicate decades to practising their instruments, so he trusts them to perform his songs, but he does admit that it's easy for something to go wrong.

"There's definitely so many movable pieces and possible catastrophes that could occur," Wainwright said, adding one bad trumpet note could bring down the whole affair.

"With that level of tension, one starts to feed off it. It actually sort of energizes the whole experience," Wainwright said. "I love the experience. It took a little bit to get comfortable in that environment, but I've now grown to adore it."

Despite the fact that he's backed by a symphony orchestra full of instruments, Wainwright said, it almost feels as if he's communicating "telepathically" with each musician on an individual basis.

"It strangely becomes very intimate and one-on-one with each player," Wainwright said. "I don't know how that works."

Wainwright will be performing songs off his 2014 album, Vibrate: The Best of Rufus Wainwright.

This show comes just over a month before the release of Wainwright's newest album, Take All My Loves: 9 Shakespeare Sonnets, which celebrates the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

He's with the WSO this weekend from Friday until Sunday.

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‘About time, eh?’: Obama

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

U.S. delights in first official visit by a PM in nearly 20 years

A warm moment in Canada-U.S. relations unfolded on the White House lawn Thursday — one marked by big fanfare and a plan to see U.S. President Barack Obama address Canada’s Parliament before he leaves office.

The day began with an elaborate bit of bilateral cinematography: a military brass band, a cannon salute and hundreds of flag-waving onlookers greeting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in town for the first state dinner involving a Canadian in 19 years.

The leaders greeted members of the crowd, many of them clutching miniature Canadian and U.S. flags, along the rope line while their wives chatted nearby.

At a separate event, Michelle Obama introduced her counterpart Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau as her “soulmate.” Gregoire-Trudeau returned the favour as the two were walking away: Obama tripped on a heel and Sophie helped break her fall.

“We are very proud to welcome the first official visit by a Canadian prime minister in nearly 20 years. About time, eh?” Obama said.

> **From my perspective, what’s not to like?**
> Barack Obama on Trudeau

“We have a common outlook on the world, and I have to say I have never seen so many Americans excited about the visit of a Canadian prime minister.”

Indeed, the two leaders went out of their way to project amity: Trudeau described the president as “My friend” and “Barack.” Obama said people were inspired by his message of hope and change.

They agreed to move forward with a customs pre-clearance experiment that could revolutionize the way Canadians and Americans enter each other’s country. It would apply the model used at some airports to other modes of transportation, allowing travellers to clear customs at train stations in Montreal and Vancouver as part of a pilot project. And they expressed optimism that a compromise could soon stave off a new round in the ongoing softwood lumber war.

The biggest news out of the event that American media will certainly seize on was the president’s extended riff on the rise of Donald Trump.

American reporters had been trying to draw Trudeau into commenting on the U.S. election and he avoided getting involved.

Obama showed no such compunction, ridiculing Republicans while also echoing Trudeau’s message from the night before: that the solution to the challenges of globalization is openness, not isolation — a jab at the election talk of expelling Mexican migrants, banning Muslim travel and ripping up trade deals.

Later, the Trudeaus were greeted by the Obamas when they arrived for Thursday night’s state dinner. Obama gave a witty toast to Trudeau, making use of the prime minister’s resume.

“We intend to have fun tonight. But not too much fun … the prime minister used to be a bouncer,” Obama said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was welcomed to the White House on Thursday by President Barack Obama.

1 The Obamas and Trudeaus pose for a photo at the North Portico of the White House as they arrive for a State Dinner.
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

2 Trudeau and Obama stand for the playing of national anthems during an arrival ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 Later, the duo held a bilateral meeting in the Oval Office.
GETTY IMAGES

POLITICS

Justin’s appeal a benefit to coalitions

Matt Laforge
Metro | Toronto

If you’re the kind of Canadian who believes ardently in the Trudeau government and the policy agenda it represents then your hopes for the aftermath of the Obama love-in are sky high. You want to believe that the prime minister’s international celebrity is built to last; that all of this really does mean that “Canada is back.”

And if you’re not that kind of Canadian, you still have to acknowledge that all this means something.

First, the fact that the most influential left-of-centre entity in all of western democracy, the Democratic party, has attached itself to Trudeauism means that the party sees the prime minister as capable of uniting coalitions and punching above the weight of his small country.

And that, in turn, means that the job of being Trudeau’s political opponent here at home just got a lot more complicated, if not a lot more difficult. If taking the Liberal government to task on ISIL or on the budget was already coming at the cost of looking like the last person to get with the times and enjoy the party, now doing so also amounts to a repudiation of a U.S. president who may be a lame duck but who is still very popular in Canada and whose ally and heir-apparent, Hillary Clinton, is still the favourite to become the next president.

That doesn’t make Trudeau bulletproof, but it does make our politics more internationally consequential.

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Obama: GOP reap what they sowed

UNITED STATES

Party 'crackup' down to years of rhetoric, says president

Years of Republican hardline politics and divisive rhetoric have spawned Donald Trump and the "crackup" of the GOP, U.S. President Barack Obama said Thursday, scoffing at the notion that his actions or policies were to blame for the charged political climate.

At a Rose Garden press conference, Obama laid the responsibility on Republican leaders, who tolerated "maximalist," uncompromising politics and created an environment where "somebody like Donald Trump can thrive."

Obama appeared primed to get his thoughts off his chest, noting he's repeatedly been asked whether he accepts blame for the climate. He finds that idea "novel," he said.

"What I'm not going to do is to validate some notion that the Republican crackup that's been taking place is a consequence of actions that I've taken," he said. "I don't think I was the one to prompt questions about my birth certificate, for example. I don't remember saying, 'Hey, why don't you ask me about that?"

The president argued that Trump, the billionaire frontrunner for the GOP nomination, is not an outlier. He said Trump's policies, particularly on immigration, are not so different from proposals of rivals Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

As Obama spoke at the White House, GOP candidates were preparing for Thursday's debate in Miami and high-stakes elections in Florida and Ohio next Tuesday. Meanwhile, anxious Republican officials were coming to terms with the idea that Cruz — their second-least-favourite GOP presidential candidate — may be the only chance to stop Trump's march.

Trump renewed his vigorous criticism of Texas Sen. Cruz, casting the rival he calls "Lying Ted" as too polarizing to break the Washington gridlock or win a general election.

"The problem with Ted is that he'll never get anything done," Trump told CNBC.

"And the bigger problem is that it's impossible for him to get elected."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A Syrian father and two of his children get warm by a fire between train tracks at the Greek-Macedonian border near the Greek village of Idomeni. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

REFUGEE CRISIS

Trail closures stall migrants

Desperate migrants and refugees piled up Thursday in fetid fields of mud at a closed border crossing as officials warned that a well-trodden route to Europe used by hundreds of thousands in the past year was no longer available.

With the closure of the migrant trail through the Balkans from Greece to more prosperous countries, concern also mounted that people desperate for sanctuary or jobs in Europe are already turning to smugglers to find other pathways.

Government ministers and experts say that Albania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania could become alternate tracks, and officials in Spain are in contact with Algeria and Morocco to try to stop new routes from opening there.

At the same time, the flow continued to the Greek islands by boat from Turkey, either by those who have not heard the Greece-Macedonia crossings are no longer open, or by others who hope the closure is temporary.

1 million

Number of people that have come to Europe in the past year, most by boat from Turkey to Greece.

Some didn't make it. Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said five people, including a 3-month-old, drowned when their speedboat sank Thursday off Turkey's western coast en route to the Greek island of Lesbos. Nine people were rescued from the boat, which was carrying Afghans and Iranians, the agency said.

Nearly 42,000 people are stranded in Greece, including 14,000 camped in the mud near the Idomeni crossing with Macedonia. Nearly three days of rain finally ended, but that did little to lift the misery for those staying in donated pup tents in nearby fields.

Long lines formed for sandwiches, tea and soup at the Idomeni camp, which long ago surpassed its capacity. Others warmed themselves at fires using what dry wood they could find.

Some people gave up and boarded buses for refugee camps in and around Athens.

"May God take his revenge on them — everyone who did this to us — from whatever country they come from," said Raife al-Baltajy, a Syrian from near Aleppo, as she waited for a bus with her family.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Snickers go up in smoke in Palestine after recall

Fifteen tonnes of Snickers bars have met a sticky end in Gaza. Hamas authorities hurled boxes of the peanut chocolate candy bar into a bomb crater Thursday, dousing them with diesel and lighting them in a crackling bonfire following a company recall.

Mars recalled sweets from its Netherlands factory last month after "a small piece of red plastic" was found in a Snickers bar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLORIDA

Mother shot by son is 'a gun advocate'

A northeast Florida woman whose four-year-old son accidentally shot her in the back while they were travelling in her pickup is apparently a gun lover who made numerous social media posts about gun rights.

A Facebook page listed under Jamie Gilt for Gun Sense was filled with posts advocating for gun rights. One says "My right to protect my child with my gun trumps your fear of my gun."

The Associated Press was unable to verify whether the page, which has since been taken down, belonged to Gilt. A person who answered the phone at her house on Thursday morning declined to comment. Putnam County Sheriff's investigators were trying to determine how the boy got his hands on the gun used to shoot his mother.

Jamie Gilt, 31, of Jacksonville owns the .45-calibre gun the boy fired on Tuesday afternoon, Putnam County Sheriff's Office spokesman Joseph Wells said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meat — no animals required

FOOD

Henless eggs, cowless milk, pigless pork in five years

The future of food may be the stuff of dreams for those vegans and vegetarians secretly pining for a bacon cheeseburger washed down with a creamy milkshake.

Science is poised to alleviate the guilt associated with such feasts by changing how meat, milk and other animal products arrive on dinner plates, with some companies aiming to almost eliminate the need for hens, cows and other animals in the food-supply chain.

Henless egg whites, cowless milk and practically pigless meat are projected to appear in grocery stores as early as five years from now via cultured food, in an effort to reduce factory farming.

"Animal culture right now is extremely detrimental to animals, human health and the environment," said Isha Datar, CEO of New Harvest, a non-profit U.S. research organization that's funding this type of innovation.

Animals often suffer in factory farm conditions, humans can be exposed to viral outbreaks like swine flu from farm animals and an abundance of land and water is required to produce a comparatively small amount of meat, the company points out in a takedown of the farming status quo on its website.

"We need to start thinking about ways in which we can decrease our dependency on it," Datar said.

The solution as New Harvest sees it? Cellular agriculture or, more simply put: harvesting the animal products many humans drool over from cell cultures rather than whole animals.

Some, like milk, can be made using microbes, like yeast or bacteria — no animals required. Others, like beef, can be grown using living or previously living cells from animals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Professor Mark Post of Maastricht University in the Netherlands unveils a burger made from cultured beef. By changing how animal products arrive on dinner plates, companies are aiming to eliminate the need for hens, cows and other animals in the food-supply chain. GETTY IMAGES

+ CULTURED FOOD

Beef hamburger
One group of researchers made a cultured beef hamburger by extracting muscle tissue from a cow. That hamburger cost $475,000 to create. One piece of muscle tissue can create more than one trillion strands of replica muscle tissue. Those are layered to create beef.

Egg white
Clara Foods is attempting to create a hen-free egg white that CEO Arturo Elizondo says has lots of protein with virtually no fat, cholesterol or carbs.

Facebook case in top court

The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear an appeal in a case which pits a British Columbia woman against social media giant Facebook.

Deborah Louise Douez sought to file a class action against Facebook over its so-called sponsored stories.

When a Facebook member presses the "Like" button on a post associated with an entity that has purchased the sponsored stories service, an ad with the member's name and portrait was sometimes displayed on the newsfeeds of that member's friends.

Douez called that a violation of the Privacy Act because she was not notified about the ad.

The B.C. Supreme Court approved the suit, but the provincial Court of Appeal stayed the case because Facebook's terms of use specify that any such actions must be heard in California, where it has its headquarters. As usual, the Supreme Court gave no reasons for agreeing to hear the appeal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RRSP CONTRIBUTIONS

Blowing tax refund not good idea: Expert

You might be feeling pretty good about that contribution to the RRSP account and may be daydreaming a little about how you're going to spend the tax refund. But investment experts say people should think twice before blowing that cheque from the government on a new television or a quick weekend getaway.

Larry Moser, divisional manager for BMO Investorline, said people need a strategy for the money, whether it is investing it or paying down debt.

When making an RRSP contribution, people aren't avoiding tax on their contributions, they're only delaying it. The advantage comes from the tax sheltered growth and it is likely people will be in a lower tax bracket in retirement when they withdraw the money than when they earned it.

However, advisers say people need to remember that they will pay tax on the money when it is withdrawn. That means $100 in an RRSP does not necessarily mean $100 in your pocket when you take the money out of the account in retirement.

33%

The percentage of Canadians in a poll done for BMO who expect to save or invest a tax refund. Other top uses: paying down a mortgage (16 per cent), home renovations (14 per cent) and travel or leisure (13 per cent).

Personal finance author Talbot Stevens says investors need to understand the difference between before-tax and after-tax dollars when it comes to their RRSP accounts.

Stevens, author of the Smart Debt Coach, recommends people invest their tax refund and more to help make up the difference, suggesting that Canadians need to top up their RRSP contributions by 25 per cent to 100 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECALL

Glass bits found in Delissio frozen pizzas
Two batches of Delissio's frozen pizza are being recalled because they may contain bits of glass. Nestle says the glass may be from spinach that was a common ingredient.

Nestle Canada says it's recalling one batch of Vintage Tuscan Style Chicken pizza and one batch of thin-crust pizza with tomato and spinach, both under the Delissio brand name.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR
74.93¢ (–0.54¢)

TSX
13,379.14 (–13.76)

OIL
$37.84 US (–45¢)

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metro VIEWS
SCIENCE FRIDAYS

NOT SO FRESH The oldest pine fossil ever found — from 140 million years ago, when dinosaurs dominated — has been dug up in a Nova Scotia quarry.

DECODED Global health convergence

CAN SCIENCE SAVE 10 MILLION LIVES?

Climb into your time machine. Step out in 2035. Picture this: The major causes of preventable death among the world's poor have been knocked down by 90 to 95 per cent. A group of experts has published a plan to do exactly that in a collection of papers out this month from the Public Library of Science. The cost? **$70 billion** per year. The return? A little more than **10 million lives** saved annually. That's assuming, with the world's largest dose of elbow grease, the best health successes of the recent past can be repeated everywhere. It's the longest of long shots. **Here's how it could be done.**

CARE FOR MOMS & KIDS

Giving birth is dangerous business. Being a newborn is even riskier. If every new and expectant mother and every child under five had access to adequate medical care by 2035, **7.5 million** lives could be saved per year.

WHAT IT WILL TAKE
Child mortality is way down, but a major scaling-up of basic lifesaving tools is still needed. Every kid needs their essential vaccines, access to re-hydration treatment for diarrhea — a huge killer — and bed nets if malaria is a risk. Women need reliable family planning and a skilled doctor or midwife with them when they give birth.

"(There are) no quick fixes. Lowering maternal and newborn mortality ... requires a functioning health-care system."
— Ann Montgomery, Canadian midwife practicing in the Democratic Republic of Congo

TAP INTO TECH

Researchers found, crucially, that an enormous investment in current tools and technologies would achieve **two-thirds of the improvement** needed to reach the goal of saving 10 million lives by 2035. Beyond that is where the dreaming part comes in.

WHAT IT WILL TAKE
The highlights of the global-health wish list: Excellent vaccines for TB and HIV; a one-pill cure for malaria; rapid, simple tests for deadly pregnancy complications. Currently, just one to three per cent of health research money is devoted to the five biggest killers of poor people. That will have to change.

CONTROL INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Humanity's greatest enemies are also its tiniest: HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases. With a massive treatment and prevention effort, by 2035, **1.8 million** adult deaths from HIV/AIDS and **970,000** from TB could be prevented every year.

WHAT IT WILL TAKE
Get antiretroviral drugs to people with HIV/AIDS who need them, diagnose TB early and improve access to antibiotics and educate the public about how diseases spread. Medicate people en masse who live in areas with rampant, treatable tropical diseases like hookworm.

STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS

In the words of public-health guru Peter Hotez, "New tools will not deliver themselves." Strong health-care systems are the final piece of the puzzle.

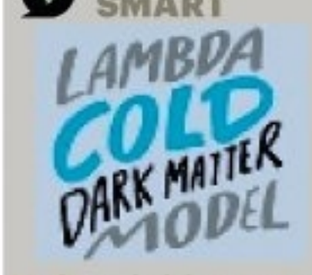
WHAT IT WILL TAKE
This is where an emerging area of research comes in: The science of scaling up and delivering health services. In just one example, this kind of research in Mexico led to a system where mothers were paid cash to come to vaccination, family planning and nutrition clinics. The result was a reduction in the number of kids with stunted growth.

FINDINGS
The week in science

Fertile research
British scientists have learned that many women who suffer recurring miscarriages — a long-time medical mystery — have too few stem cells in the lining of their wombs. (Such cells help rebuild the lining every month into a cushy place for an embryo). A simple fix could help some women: "Scratching" the inside of the womb, with a thin bit of plastic inserted through the cervix, to stimulate healing and cell regeneration.

Thank goo we're here
Are you a simple, single-celled bacterium? Are you algae? No? You have your ancestral protein-kinase-encoding gene to thank. Researchers at the University of British Columbia believe they've identified the gene, shared by all complex living things, that first allowed for the evolution of multicellular life forms — plants, animals, and eventually, us. The gene is a blueprint for molecules called protein kinases, which help cells co-ordinate with one another. It arose because of changes to DNA that happened about a billion years ago in a primordial pool of pond scum.

SOUND SMART



It's the underlying concept that explains this: Out in space, when a small blob of dark matter collides with a mini "dwarf" galaxy, the massive exertion of gravity creates a cataclysm of dust and gas that triggers a starburst — the birth of many stars at once.

Genna Buck
@genna_buck

Citizen Scientist

Can I starve cancer with a strict diet?

QUESTION
I read that the ketogenic diet fights cancer. A cure in plain sight? — Amit, Vancouver

Dear Amit,

Cancer sucks. I wish there were an all-purpose cure.

Cancer cells use tons of glucose to grow and divide and your body makes glucose from carbs you eat. So it follows the ketogenic diet (KD) — uber-low-carb, high fat, high protein — could impede cancer. In other words, the process of how it works (the mechanism) is logically plausible.

That's what makes it different from something like, say, crystal healing. Even if you feel better after, the fact that someone balanced a quartz on your head or whatever is likely not why: The proposed mechanism (manipulation of energy currents) is bonkers.

Reviews of the research show KD is associated with increased survival and reduced tumour growth. But nearly all studies looked at **cancer in lab mice**. Reliable evidence of its efficacy in people doesn't exist yet. So it's definitely not a substitute for cancer treatment.

Though human clinical trials are in the works, I found only a smattering of published studies. A 2011 paper looked at 16 adults with advanced cancer (too few to draw general conclusions). On KD, six patients had reduced symptoms. Two died. And the rest decided to quit before the three-month study was over. No surprise: Many cancer patients, owing to the "wanting to barf 24/7" thing, can't face food, period, let alone KD's menu of avocados, bacon, olive oil and all.

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

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Your essential daily news
MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Mary Elizabeth Winstead plays a young woman trapped in a bunker with a sinister survivalist (played by John Goodman) in 10 Cloverfield Lane. CONTRIBUTED

Our obsession with doomsday

END OF THE WORLD

10 Cloverfield Lane is the latest film that plays on anxiety

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Los Angeles is a sun-dappled utopia with a Mediterranean climate, palm trees as far as the eye can see and only 35 days of precipitation annually. It's a sprawling Garden of Eden, with pockets of paradise connected by an interweaving series of freeways. Think year-round sun tans, flip-flops and driving the convertible with the top down.

So why, when such natural beauty surrounds it, does Hollywood seem obsessed with stories about the end of the world? Could it be it's because they live above the San Andreas Fault, an inner earth rupture that issues occasional rumblings that threaten to drop much of Southern California into the Pacific Ocean? Perhaps it's because it's the home of Kim, Kourtney and Khloé, an alliterative television family who seem to be a harbinger for the dissolution of society.

Whatever the reason, in movie after movie Hollywood hands us terrifying visions of what the world will look like when the Kardashians are done with it.

This weekend 10 Cloverfield Lane, which producer J.J. Abrams calls a "blood relative" but not a sequel to his 2008 monster flick Cloverfield, sees Michelle (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) trapped in an underground bunker with a sinister survivalist played by John Goodman. Outside, he says, an attack is about to leave the world uninhabitable. "Something's coming," he hisses.

What exactly is happening outside the bunker's walls is unclear. Whether it's nuclear fallout, an unexpected ice age or a zombie holocaust that brings about the end, the post apocalyptic feel of 10 Cloverfield Lane is just the latest attempt by the film biz to tap into the world's general feeling of unease.

In 1959 bright and sunshiny Hollywood offered up a scary story that set the date for the end of the world just after World War III in 1964. In On the Beach, nuclear war has destroyed all life on the planet save for a small enclave in Australia, but even they will succumb once the radiation clouds drift by. As doomsday dramas go this one is particularly depressing — for example people gobble up "suicide pills" — but its Cold War commentary led one writer to label it "the most important film of our time."

Not all end-of-the-world scenarios are as grim as that, however. Seeking a Friend for the End of the World's set up sounds bleak but it's actually amusing and inventive.

Three weeks before a giant asteroid is scheduled to collide with earth, Dodge (Steve Carell) and his flaky downstairs neighbour (Keira Knightley) head out of town, looking for meaning in a world that soon won't exist. It's a low-key movie that could have been a broad comedy, but instead chooses for a more modest, heartfelt approach.

Sometimes the end of the world is appealing; cute even. WALL-E, the story of a lonely, but adorable, robot who inadvertently gives humankind a second chance, is aimed at kids but doesn't look like any other kid's movie you've seen. Don't expect the same old from Pixar. It's ambitious and beautiful like 2001: A Space Odyssey for children.

With such a range of dystopian stories to mine it seems sunny Hollywood just might produce dark visions of our planet until the end of the world comes for real.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

10 Cloverfield Lane	★★★★
The Little Prince	★★★★
Born to be Blue	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

'You're a beggar, on your knees, and you will take whatever we shove down your throat.' Which was pretty much my approach to Sunday's soups.

I made two pots of soup and cleaned my kitchen in just under five hours on Sunday afternoon. If we're being honest, I could've done it in two but I was simultaneously watching six episodes of House of Cards.

Blame Netflix, who released the political drama's complete fourth season on March 4, just in time for weekend binge-watching. I came out on the other side with white bean, sausage and swiss chard soup plus a black bean purée. But in other homes, I heard of laundry going undone and children going to bed without dinner.

The plot picks up right where things left off: First Lady Claire (Robin Wright) has left her husband, president Francis "Frank" Underwood (Kevin Spacey), while he's smack dab in the middle of the primaries and goes home to her mom's Texas ranch. As usual, there's plenty of treachery and scheming — only this time around, POTUS AND FLOTUS's biggest threats are each other. It's like they forgot that they're better when they work together.

I know the feeling: After we first watched House of Cards back in 2013, Simon joked that he was going to get a rowing machine, just like Frank's. It was a joke because, and God bless him, he's not what I'd call athletically inclined. To every wish list he'd add "Rowing Machine: preferably from the limited edition Frank Underwood series," which as far as I know doesn't exist. Flash forward to January 2016: after coming home from a week-long work trip,

THE SERIES: House of Cards

THE MEAL: Sunday soup

I lugged my bag upstairs to unpack. There, in the middle of the bedroom, was a rowing machine — a cheap $100 unit he'd purchased from Amazon while I was away. Who is this person I've been living with for 12 years? I thought.

Simon explained: "You know how the only clothes you care about are leisure and sleepwear and I'm supportive? Well, my fashion goal for this year is simply to look incredible in jeans and a T-shirt. These abs aren't going to tone themselves."

I didn't have the heart to tell him that the rowing machine wasn't the quickest way to a six pack. But he was right about my obsessions with sleepwear. In a matter of minutes I had gone from wondering who he was, to asking: Who am I?

Claire is also in the middle of an existential crisis, despite always looking flawless. Many drool over her perfectly tailored dresses with three-quarter-length sleeves. But I fixate on her pyjamas. Whether it's a crisp, white cotton night shirt or a two-piece set in black silk, her bedtime attire is extraordinary.

But there's never any flannel: all the better because if Claire Underwood warmed up, who would she be? Not the Machiavellian, cold-hearted, complicated bitch who's become one of the most engaging characters on TV. Even the (fictional) Russian president is no match for her: "I'm done letting you have your dignity," she tells him. "The truth is, you're a beggar, on your knees, and you will take whatever we shove down your throat."

Which was pretty much my approach to Sunday's soups. I wasn't following recipes for either: I just took those raw ingredients, plus some canned stuff, and I turned them into comestibles so tasty that you'd beg me for seconds.

Unfortunately they both looked like barf so there is no photo documentation to prove that they exist. If I were Frank Underwood, I'd turn to the camera right now and drawl "You'll just have to trust me."

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

FOOD BRIEF

KD still pretty yummy in synthetic orange here

Relax Canada, no one's messed with your KD — yet.

Kraft surprised American cheesy pasta lovers this week by revealing they've been unknowingly eating revamped Macaroni & Cheese — now with no artificial flavours, preservatives or dyes — for months. Calling it "the largest blind taste test in history" Kraft said they quietly swapped out artificial flavours, preservatives and dyes for spices such as paprika, turmeric, and annatto back in December, without consumers noticing.

But in Canada, we're still consuming the synthetic colouring-filled KD we've grown to know and love

"We would invite you to try it but you already have," reads a line on Kraft's website. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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AWARDS SEASON

Early Canadian Screen Awards trophy haul for Book of Negros

The Book of Negroes and Schitt's Creek head into this weekend's Canadian Screen Awards poised to dominate the TV categories after collecting a leading trophy haul in a pre-bash ceremony.

CBC's acclaimed miniseries The Book of Negroes collected nine trophies Wednesday including wins for lead actress Aunjanue Ellis, lead actor Lyriq Bent and supporting actress Shailyn Pierre-Dixon.

Other wins included best direction for Clement Virgo, best costume, best original score, and a writing award for Virgo and novelist Lawrence Hill, who adapted his own book.

On the comedy side, CBC's Schitt's Creek collected six wins including one for supporting actor Chris Elliott and supporting actress Emily Hampshire.

Space's clone serial Orphan Black collected five wins, including best writing for a drama series, while MTV's Degrassi earned four, including best youth fiction series.

The Canadian Screen Awards will hand out its marquee film and TV prizes during a televised gala Sunday, hosted by Norm Macdonald. It airs on CBC-TV.

The Canada-Ireland co-production Room leads the film contenders, with recent Oscar-winner Brie Larson and Vancouver's nine-year-old Jacob Tremblay competing for the best actress and actor trophies.

The Book of Negroes is a miniseries that follows the harrowing journey of Aminata Diallo played by Aunjanue Ellis, and her return home after being forced into slavery as a child. HANDOUT

London, Ont.-based novelist Emma Donoghue is up for best adapted screenplay for adapting her own novel of the same name, about a five-year-old boy who learns he's spent his entire life in captivity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘Self-destruction is a real enemy’

BORN TO BE BLUE

Ethan Hawke stars as tragic musician Chet Baker in biopic

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Ethan Hawke, who plays trumpet player Chet Baker in the new biography Born to Be Blue, says artists are able to turn suffering into something beautiful and relatable. CONTRIBUTED

In Born to Be Blue, a stylish new biopic about the turbulent life of My Funny Valentine trumpeter Chet Baker, Miles Davis tells the horn player, “You haven’t lived enough” to be a great musician.

When I ask Hawke if great art can be created without life experience, he says, “My take is that there are no rules, but you don’t become Nelson Mandela without suffering. There is a huge myth around Mozart that he was just divinely inspired. In truth, he worked really hard. He was obsessed with music from a very young age.

“You could make the case that Michael Jackson suffered immensely and that is part of what drove him. I think the service of the artistic community is to translate our lives back to us and hopefully to lend some understanding. You need to participate in life and feel life to be able to do that. But you know lots of people suffer without a gift or talent to translate it into a beautiful painting.”

Baker took Davis’s comment to heart and set off on a lifelong self-destructive bender that saw him fall into drug addiction, even pawning his instruments to support his drug habit.

“In the arts, self destruction is a real enemy,” Hawke says. “If you eliminate self-destruction, if you get out of your own way, give yourself permission to have respect for yourself and treat yourself like someone that you love, your chances of success quadruple. That’s really hard.

“It sounds so simple. The documentary I made (Seymour: An Introduction) is all about how hard that is.”

Hawke shares Baker’s rough-hewn good looks and does a convincing job of imitating the fragile beauty of his singing voice. More importantly he apes the addict’s temperament. Charming one minute, petulant and/or incoherent the next, he plays Baker as a talented train wreck; a man whose tragic life experience fed his art.

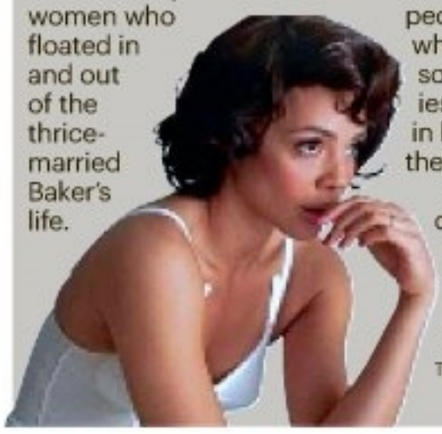
Hawke may resemble the musician but the similarity is only physical. He is comfortable in his skin.

SUPPORTING ROLE

Playing the patient lover

Carmen Ejogo plays Jane, an actress and love interest who becomes the fulcrum of Baker’s recovery, weathering his anger and occasional relapses with impossible patience.

In fact, Jane never existed. She’s a composite of the women who floated in and out of the thrice-married Baker’s life.



“There was absolute liberty to do what I wanted on this,” said Ejogo, who was more bound to historical accuracy when she portrayed Coretta Scott King in Selma.

“He was a bit of a (expletive) when it came to women. I mean, he really was quite abusive and he really expected them to bend to his whims, and I’ve just heard some crazy horror stories — cornering girlfriends in bathrooms and forcing them to inject.

“But I think to reveal the darker side of any mythological legendary heroic type is the most interesting space to explore,” she added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ONGOING COMMITMENT

NFB vows gender parity

The National Film Board of Canada says at least half of its productions will be directed by women within three years.

And NFB head Claude Joli-Coeur says female directors will get half of the board’s production budget by 2019.

Joli-Coeur vowed to usher in complete gender parity while speaking at the Vancouver International Women in Film Festival earlier this week. He says he hopes the NFB can “lead the way for the industry as a whole.”

Half of this year’s spending already goes to projects with female directors, but Joli-Coeur says that fluctuates from year to year.

The federal agency boasts a strong stable of female filmmakers: Sarah Polley’s intensely personal feature Stories We Tell is considered the NFB’s most popular theatrical documentary of all time, while Torill Kove is an Oscar-winner for her animated short The Danish Poet, and documentary maker Mina Shum is riding acclaim for her latest feature, Ninth Floor.

“There have been good years and lean years for women’s filmmaking at the NFB. No more,” Joli-Coeur added in a release issued Tuesday.

“Today, I’m making a firm, ongoing commitment to full gender parity, which I hope will help to lead the way for the industry as a whole.”

Canadian filmmaker Torill Kove poses with the Oscar for best animated short film for The Danish Poet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Female-directed projects in the works include Kove’s next animated short, Threads; Zayne Akyol’s Terre de Roses, Mon Nom Est Gulistan; Marie Clements’s The Road Forward; Ann Marie Fleming’s feature animation Window Horses; Tiffany Hsiung’s The Apology; and Anjali Nayar’s Gun Runners. THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **I find the lack of representation unacceptable, given the amazing talent that exists.**
> NFB head Claude Joli-Coeur

“A BEAUTIFUL FILM FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY”
Le Journal Metro
JEFF BRIDGES RACHEL McADAMS PAUL RUDD MARION COTILLARD JAMES FRANCO BENICIO DEL TORO RICKY GERVAIS BUD CORT PAUL GIAMATTI ALBERT BROOKS MACKENZIE FOY
The Little Prince
A film by MARK OSBORNE
Director of Kung Fu Panda
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STARTS TODAY
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SILVERCITY ST. ITAL
CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY FOR SHOWTIMES

POLITICS

Grégoire-Trudeau's D.C. splash

It isn't easy being first lady. Michelle Obama is expected to be gracious but whip-smart, a good public speaker but not too opinionated, a tastemaker and fashion icon but humble and down-to-earth.

Canada doesn't have anything quite like the Office of the First Lady of the United States, which has its own duties and gendered contradictions. Our political wives tend to take a back seat, appearing on television rarely and in tabloids hardly ever.

But on Wednesday, when Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau touched down at Andrews Air Force Base, it was clear she had arrived not only in D.C., but as a political celebrity in her own right.

"I think she will probably garner more press as the wife of a prime minister than any others in my lifetime," said Rosemary Sexton, a former society columnist.

Surrounded by her children and greeted by Canadian-flag-waving fans, Grégoire-Trudeau positively glowed on the tarmac.

When Grégoire-Trudeau arrived this morning for the official welcome ceremony at the White House, looking resplendent in a Lucian Matis outfit, she was affectionately greeted with the prime minister by the Obamas and those in attendance.

"We have been so warmly welcomed. It's been a blessing," she said, with Obama at her side.

On Thursday, Grégoire-Trudeau attended a "spousal program" with Michelle Obama in honour of girls' education around the world, an issue that is close to Grégoire-Trudeau's heart.

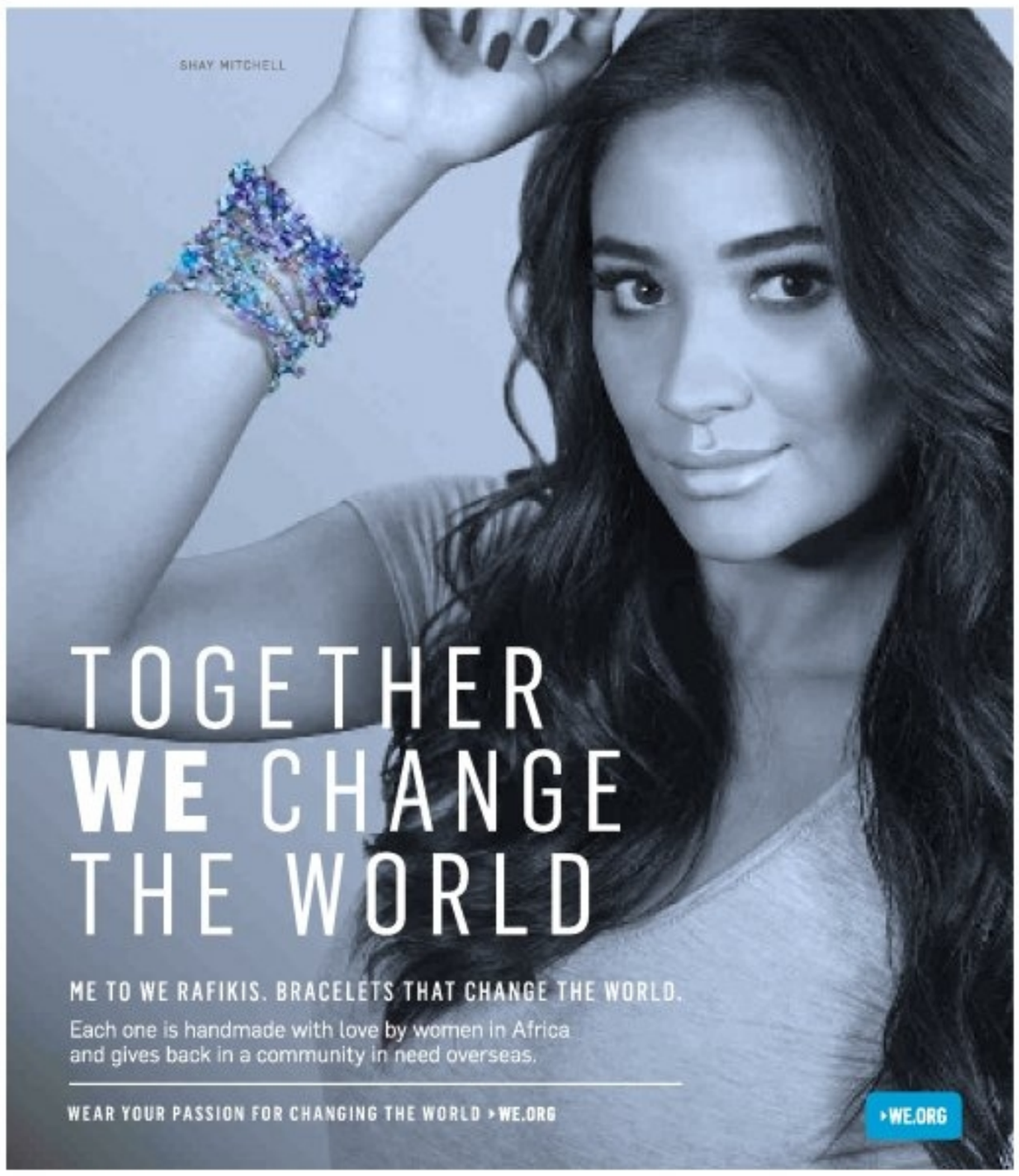
"You be fearless… You know your rights… You fight for your rights," she said, speaking directly to young women around the world.

"Young people are the leaders of now."

Sexton praised Grégoire-Trudeau's outspokenness, and said it will win her many fans both in Canada and the U.S.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau holds her son Hadrien while she greets students from D.C.'s Patterson Elementary School on Wednesday. CLIFF OWEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Sophie's dress choice more than a dream for designer

FASHION

Lucian Matis piece worn for debut at the White House

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

The dress Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau chose for her official arrival at the White House was kept secret, unknown even to the designer who created it.

"When it comes to the government, everything's very hush-hush," said Lucian Matis, the Toronto designer who created the red and pink dress Grégoire-Trudeau wore on her state visit to the U.S. on Thursday.

It came as a surprise to him.

"This morning I got all these texts, social media started and then TV stations started calling," he said. "It's been a tremendous response, and it's quite overwhelming."

Six weeks ago, Matis received a call from Grégoire-Trudeau's stylist, Jessica Mulroney, requesting several dresses for the Prime Minister's wife to try on. He fitted her for several, leaving her with many options and not knowing if she'd wear any.

But the dress, splashed with a silk appliqué of hand-painted orchids, stood out at the time.

"It's interesting, she was telling me about how she rarely wears crew neck, but because the dress is so fitted it still has enough sex appeal — that it's not too revealing and is appropriate for the occasion," Matis said.

Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau and First Lady Michelle Obama share a laugh during a ceremony at the White House on Thursday. OLIVIER DOULIERY/GETTY IMAGES

Grégoire-Trudeau was a model client, Matis said.

"I didn't expect for her to be even more beautiful in person than she is photographed, surprisingly that's even possible," he said. "And she is very down to earth and very knowledgeable of fashion and her style."

The dress ended up as a perfect choice, he said.

"The red stood out beautifully against the background of people she was surrounded by because most people wore black or darker colours," he said. "And it's a Canadian colour, our flag's colour, which is wonderful."

Matis said the dress is part of his 2016 Spring/Summer collection but because he was caught by surprise he's not entirely sure which retailers are carrying it.

"I never dreamt that the first lady of Canada would be wearing it at the White House," he said. "I was quite, quite shocked."

As of late Thursday afternoon, Matis had no idea what Grégoire-Trudeau would wear to the state dinner. "I don't know," he said. "Maybe one of ours, but maybe another Canadian designer."

Turns out, she chose a cap-sleeved embroidered purple dress by Lucian Matis.

"I never dreamt that the first lady of Canada would be wearing it at the White House. I was quite, quite shocked.

Lucian Matis

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Hilton puts robot concierge to work at hotel front desk

Party with Hardwell in Los Cabos

MEXICO

Or, if you just wanna chill, take in some surf and sand

Loren Christie
For Metro Canada

Orange Veuve Clicquot stations are the only things that break up the crisp white of the pool-side area. ALL PHOTOS PETER REMUS

Los Cabos has its sexy back.

After being decimated by Hurricane Odile in September of 2014, this popular tourist area at the southernmost tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula has reclaimed its status as the go-to destination for Hollywood A-listers, party goers and sun seekers happy to bask in the region's 350 days of average annual sunshine.

The sister cities of Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo and the 32-kilometre stretch of beaches and luxury resorts connecting the two make up the heart of the region.

Cabo San Lucas has the buzz, offering numerous water activities from SUP yoga to whale watching.

The bars and clubs were humming on the nights we were there and for those who prefer a quieter option there are a number of outstanding restaurants to choose from.

Our cliff side dinner under the moonlight at El Farallon was a highlight.

San José del Cabo is a quiet, more traditional Mexican town.

The Art Walk, held every Thursday evening between November and June is a great time to explore.

You can check out local art as you wander through the historic gallery district.

Pop into one of the higher end galleries where they give you a shot of tequila to help you drink in the art.

The recently re-opened 170 room ME Cabo is a shining example of the region's new and improved swagger.

While the renovated guestrooms and a new Peruvian dining experience are impressive, it is the revamped pool area that is truly the heartbeat of the hotel.

Pure white poolside furniture, including solid plastic wingback armchairs, gives it a crisp modern feel.

The splashes of orange that caught my eye when I first arrived turned out to be Veuve Clicquot branded champagne buckets, conveniently placed within arms' reach of the chaise lounges.

A DJ booth on the upper level of the swim-up pool bar sets the tone for the day playing a specially curated music soundtrack that follows the sun, light and peppy for your morning coffee in the Beach Club and amped up party remixes in the heat of the afternoon.

Guest DJs, including the likes of Hardwell and David Guetta, can turn a Saturday at the ME pool into Cabo's "It" destination.

Although I enjoyed the pool party vibe I am, at heart, more of a beach bum.

A week of surf and sand from the comfort of one of ME's private cabanas with a postcard view of Land's End, Cabos' famous rocky promontory, was how I got my groove back.

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TRAVEL NOTES AMERICA, HOME AND ABROAD

Park Service revises prediction for peak of cherry blossoms

Unseasonably warm weather has prompted the U.S. National Park Service to revise its prediction for peak blooms for Washington's cherry blossom trees. The agency said in a news release Tuesday that it has revised the projected dates to March 18-23. Peak bloom is when 70 per cent of the trees around the Tidal Basin are in blossom. Last week, they announced the projected dates were between March 31 and April 3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cherry Blossoms are expected early in D.C.

Senator urges rule changes so U.S. hotels can operate in Cuba

A U.S. senator is urging the Obama administration to ease restrictions on investment in Cuba so American hotels can operate in the island nation. Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat, says that as diplomatic relations improve, business opportunities will grow. Klobuchar says hotel operators from Spain and the Britain are already negotiating deals to build hotels in Cuba. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many are eyeing Cuba's tourist industry.

Pennsylvania turns to 'happiness' for new tourism motto

Pennsylvania is turning to the Declaration of Independence to inspire its new tourism motto. State officials unveiled the slogan "Pennsylvania. Pursue Your Happiness" and a logo on Tuesday. The slogan takes the place of The State of Independence, the winner in a 2004 contest. Before that, state tourism slogans were Pennsylvania Memories Last a Lifetime, You've Got a Friend in Pennsylvania, and America Starts Here. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Pennsylvania. Pursue Your Happiness," says the state's tourist board. ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

THE SHADOE DAVIS SHOW
SMART ASSINESS
BIG 97.5
WINNIPEG'S CLASSIC ROCK

A worker puts the final touches on a recording pod at the Grammy Museum Mississippi in Cleveland, Miss. Mississippi was chosen for its vital contribution to popular music — namely, African American blues musicians like Robert Johnson and B.B. King.

ALL PHOTOS ROGELIO V. SOLIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grammy museum opens in Mississippi

MUSEUM

Cleveland site of new music attraction

The second and only official Grammy Museum outside of Los Angeles opens Saturday in the Mississippi Delta, cradle of the blues.

Organizers chose Cleveland, Miss. — two hours north of the state capital Jackson — for the nearly $20 million project and promise one of the most advanced museums in the country. It's a smaller but updated version of its sister museum in California and employs high-definition touchscreens and interactive technology to chronicle American music history from before the first Grammy Awards in 1959 to the present.

The bedrock of that history is the Mississippi Delta, said Bob Santelli, executive director of the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles. The rhythmic guitar and soulful ballads of bluesmen like Robert Johnson and B.B. King travelled up the Mississippi River and across the country, influencing nearly every style of American popular music including, jazz, hip-hop and rock 'n' roll.

The state also claims the most Grammy winners per capita in the world. "Isn't that wild?" Santelli said. "You take the state of Mississippi out of American music history and you have a very large gap to fill."

The blues mesmerized musicians ranging from Tupelo native Elvis Presley to The Beatles and more in generations since, said Patricia Walker, songwriter and head of Delta State University's music department. The original bluesmen — mostly African-American men living in the Jim Crow era of discrimination in the South — lived off the land and eased their hardships through music.

"Everybody at one time or another has had the blues," Walker said. "The musicians that came out of here had to dig deep in the soil to make a living, and they dug deep to capture those feelings in their music."

Grammy performance costumes.

> **There's something in the water here, in the dirt. It's very deep. It's very real.**
> Jessica Faith, musician

Officials designed the museum — the most upscale building to come to the region — with the Delta's history in mind. Corrugated metal on the building's exterior is a nod to the tin metal sharecropper shacks many blues musicians grew up in. The entrance looks like a big front porch, a common feature of many Delta homes.

Cleveland Chamber of Commerce Director Judson Thigpen estimates the museum could bring in about $20 million annually as a tourist draw to the entire region.

The museum was a collaborative effort to spotlight the Delta's music legacy, said Allen Hammons who helped establish the B.B. King Museum in Indianola, Miss., as well as a Blues Trail along highways in the state. In 2011 Hammons joined Walker and others to form the Cleveland Music Foundation, a non-profit foundation that built and operates the museum. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro SPORTS

Tom Brady's two-year extension with the Pats will give him a $28-million signing bonus and adds $41 million to his deal should he play it out

Abdelkader lifts Red Wings over Jets

NHL

Detroit caps comeback win late in third

Justin Abdelkader scored the tiebreaking goal late in the third period to lift the Detroit Red Wings to a 3-2 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Thursday night.

Dylan Larkin and Jonathan Ericsson also scored and Petr Mrazek stopped 23 shots to help the Red Wings snap a three-game losing streak.

Marko Dano and Tyler Myers scored for Winnipeg and Michael Hutchinson finished with 32 saves.

On the go-ahead score, Tomas Tatar intercepted Myers' pass behind the net and passed to Abdelkader in the slot, who shot the puck top shelf for his 17th of the season with 4:36 remaining.

Trailing 2-0, the Red Wings got on the scoreboard when Larkin took a pass from Abdelkader and beat Hutchinson from the right circle at 6:40 of the second period.

It was Larkin's 20th goal, making the 19-year-old the 16th rookie in Red Wings franchise history — and first since Henrik Zetterberg in 2002-03 — to reach that mark. It also snapped an eight-game pointless skid for Larkin.

Jets centre Mark Scheifele steals the puck from the Red Wings' Jonathan Ericsson on Thursday in Detroit. DUANE BURLESON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THURSDAY In Detroit

3	2
RED WINGS	JETS

Ericsson tied it with 7:35 remaining in the period when his shot from the left circle went off the left skate of Paul Postma in front of the net past Hutchinson. It was the first goal by a Detroit defenceman in 11 games.

Dano opened the scoring at 11:23 of the first, finding himself open in the slot for a one-timer to beat Mrazek. It is Dano's first goal since he was traded to the Jets along with a draft pick from Chicago for Andrew Ladd and Jay Harrison. Dano's last goal was Nov. 4 against St. Louis.

Myers made it 2-0 with 3:29 remaining in the period, manoeuvring around Zetterberg in the slot. Mark Scheifele got the lone assist on Myers' goal, extending his point streak to six games. Scheifele has six goals and three assists in that span.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TENNIS

Racket company stands by Sharapova

Maria Sharapova's racket supplier became the first main sponsor to publicly back the five-time Grand Slam champion after she admitted to failing a doping test.

Austria-based company Head announced Thursday it was planning to extend its sponsorship deal, three days after Sharapova revealed her use of the banned substance meldonium.

Head CEO Johan Eliasch said Sharapova has made "a manifest error" by her continued use of the drug after it was banned, but added there was no "evidence of any intent by Maria of enhancing her performance or trying to gain an unfair advantage."

> **She has earned the benefit of the doubt and we are extending it to her.**
> Head CEO Johan Eliasch

Eliasch said his brand, which started sponsoring Sharapova in 2011, "is proud to stand behind Maria, now and into the future and we intend to extend her contract. We look forward to working with her and to announcing new sponsorships."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Habs cleared of sin in Tinordi deal

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly says the league has no reason to believe the Montreal Canadiens acted inappropriately by trading Jarred Tinordi to the Arizona Coyotes after the defenceman was suspended 20 games for performance-enhancing drugs.

Montreal traded Tinordi to Arizona on Jan. 15 in a controversial deal that sent fan-voted all-star John Scott to the Canadiens, who demoted him to the minors. At the time, Canadiens general manager Marc Bergevin said there were other factors that went into the trade but did not elaborate.

Jarred Tinordi GETTY IMAGES

The NHL announced Tinordi's suspension on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIER

Page playoff window quickly closing

Alberta's Kevin Koe and Brad Gushue of Newfoundland and Labrador joined Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs in the playoff mix at the Tim Hortons Brier on Thursday.

Manitoba's Mike McEwen was the favourite to earn the fourth and final spot with two draws of round-robin play to go.

The playoff picture became clearer at the national men's curling championship after the morning draw. Several teams — including Canada's Pat Simmons — were left clinging to the faint chance of an appearance in a tiebreaker game.

> **There's no time to let up. We've got to continue to play well and keep this momentum going.** Brad Jacobs

Gushue came through with a hit on his final throw to edge B.C.'s Jim Cotter 8-7 while Koe dumped Simmons 8-3.

Jacobs and McEwen had the morning off. When the two teams played in the afternoon, unbeaten Northern Ontario picked up an 8-5 win to secure a berth in the Page playoff 1-2 game.

Gushue will provide the opposition for Jacobs on Friday night after he outscored Prince Edward Island's Adam Casey 11-7.

After 15 draws, Jacobs was 9-0 and Gushue was next at 9-1. Koe was in third place at 7-3 and McEwen held fourth place at 6-3.

Team Canada headed into its evening match against Ontario with a record of 5-5. Its players were crushed after the morning loss.

"You look at those top four teams that are going to be in the playoffs and we didn't beat any of them," said Canada lead Nolan Thiessen. "So that's a recipe for going home early."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for more Brier coverage.

IN BRIEF

Oilers' Nurse banned three games for being aggressor

The NHL has suspended Edmonton Oilers defenceman Darnell Nurse three games for being the aggressor in a fight with Roman Polak of the San Jose Sharks on Tuesday.

Nurse took exception to a hit Polak made on teammate Matt Hendricks and started fighting the Sharks defenceman before he dropped his gloves. Nurse was given a two-minute minor for roughing and a five-minute major penalty for fighting. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Additional video official recommended for CFL

The CFL's rules committee is recommending the addition of another video official this season.

The official would be in the league's command centre and be able to fix obvious errors that aren't challengeable by replay.

The recommendation highlights proposed changes made Thursday by the committee, which must be approved by the CFL's board of governors to be implemented.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Lions sign WR Marvin Jones

The Detroit Lions have finalized their $40 million, five-year contract with free agent wide receiver Marvin Jones. The Lions introduced Jones on Thursday on a conference call. After losing Calvin Johnson to retirement, they were in the market for a receiver.

Jones, who turns 26 on Saturday, was with the Cincinnati Bengals for four years. He caught 65 passes for 816 yards and four touchdowns last season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Osweiler bolts to Texans

Brock Osweiler signed his four-year, $72 million deal with the Houston Texans on Thursday, making the quarterback with all of seven NFL starts one of the league's highest-paid players.

Osweiler agreed to leave the Denver Broncos when free agency began, leaving a pending starting job with the Super Bowl champions to become Houston's QB.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reds power past Man United

Liverpool outclassed Manchester United but relied on two defensive blunders to win 2-0 in a high-profile all-English match in the Europa League last 16 on Thursday, with only David de Gea's brilliant saves sparing the visitors a heavier first-leg beating.

Daniel Sturridge — from a penalty — and Roberto Firmino found a way past De Gea to make Liverpool a strong favourite to advance after next week's return leg.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barca presidents off hook

Barcelona says a local court has accepted an appeal by club president Josep Maria Bartomeu and predecessor Sandro Rosell in a case involving alleged irregularities around Neymar's transfer in 2013.

The club says the ruling means Barcelona and the presidents are no longer defendants in the case involving the Brazilian striker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jose Bautista gathers himself at ground level, after being hit by an Aroldis Chapman pitch. CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays keep on rolling with win over Yanks

GRAPEFRUIT LEAGUE

Bautista makes debut, hits the dirt against wild Chapman

New York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman and Toronto slugger Jose Bautista made their spring training debuts Thursday during the Blue Jays' 11-4 win over a Yankees' split squad.

Chapman hit Bautista with a pitch in the fifth, when the left-hander gave up a run, hit two batters and walked two others during two-thirds of an inning. Chapman reached 99 miles an hour and was consistently around 96-97, but 17 of his 26 pitches were balls.

"A slider in the dirt and it hit my (right) foot," Bautista said. "It's his first outing, too. He's all over the place, which is normal for a pitcher. They're excited, it's the first time. He had a long off-season. He's probably feeling great, so he's trying to harness all his strength and velocity."

Acquired from Cincinnati in December, Chapman will begin serving a 30-game suspension at the start of the season, a penalty he agreed to under baseball's new domestic violence policy.

"Just because I didn't have my control today doesn't mean I have to worry about it," Chapman said through a translator. "This is spring training."

Bautista was a designated hitter for five innings. He earlier popped out and struck out.

Toronto delayed Bautista's first game in an effort to help him stay stronger throughout the season. The 35-year-old had 40 homers and 114 RBIs last season.

"The normal first game," Bautista said. "You kind of get a feel for it. Saw some good pitches. I was tracking the ball. I felt like I was picking it up good out of their hand. A good day."

Andrew Miller, who will retain the closer role during Chapman's absence, gave up four hits, including a two-run single to Josh Donaldson in the third.

Drew Hutchison, bidding for the fifth starter spot, allowed two runs and three hits over 2-2/3 innings.

Switch-pitcher Pat Venditte, a former Yankee, struck out one in a perfect seventh.

First baseman Edwin Encarnacion, whose spring debut was set back by an abscessed tooth, could play next week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UP NEXT

Marcus Stroman will pitch for the third time this spring, Friday against Boston.

HOME RUN CELEBRATION

Joey Bats a 'disgrace': Gossage

Hall-of-Fame relief pitcher Rich (Goose) Gossage has criticized Toronto star Jose Bautista and New York Mets slugger Yoenis Cespedes for the way the pair celebrated home runs during the playoffs last year.

Gossage called Bautista a "disgrace to the game" during a profanity-laced interview in Tampa on Thursday.

"He's embarrassing to all the Latin players, whoever played before him," Gossage told ESPN. "Throwing his bat and acting like a fool, like all those guys in Toronto. Cespedes, same thing."

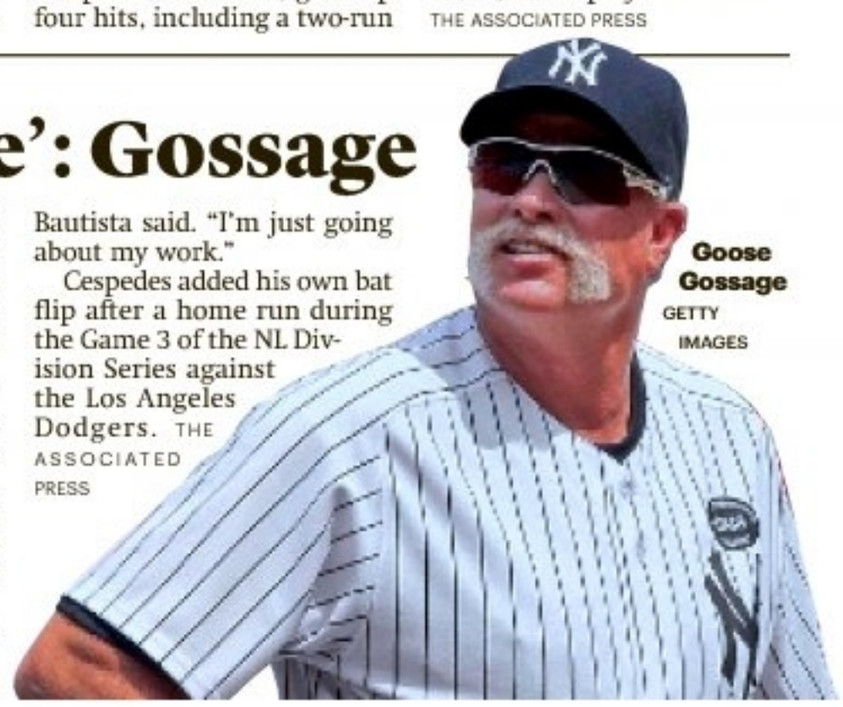
Bautista memorably flipped his bat after hitting a three-run homer that gave the Blue Jays the lead in the seventh inning in Game 5 of the AL Division Series against Texas.

"He's entitled to his opinion," Bautista said. "I don't agree with him whatsoever. I've never talked to him. I don't know him. Whatever reason or agenda he's on is fine with me. I'm not going to start picking a fight, let alone with a Hall-of-Famer."

Bautista said he had no plans to reach out to Gossage.

"I don't think it's my job," Bautista said. "I'm just going about my work."

Cespedes added his own bat flip after a home run during the Game 3 of the NL Division Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Goose Gossage GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Coconut French Toast

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You could get organized for a leisurely breakfast. Or, you could remind yourself that you're an adult and if you want to have French toast for dinner on a Friday night, you darn well can.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- Pinch salt
- 8 thick slices of thick bread
- Pat of butter for cooking

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Sprinkle the shredded coconut on a baking sheet and place in the oven for about 10 minutes, stirring once, until the coconut just begins to brown. Remove and set aside.
3. In a shallow bowl, whisk together coconut milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon and salt until everything is well combined.
4. Dip your bread into the egg mixture and allow it sit for a couple of minutes on each side to really drink it in.
5. In a large skillet, melt the butter over medium heat then lay down your soaked bread. Allow each side to cook until golden brown, about 3 to 5 minutes each side.
6. Repeat with the second batch. Serve with a sprinkling of toasted coconut and maple syrup.

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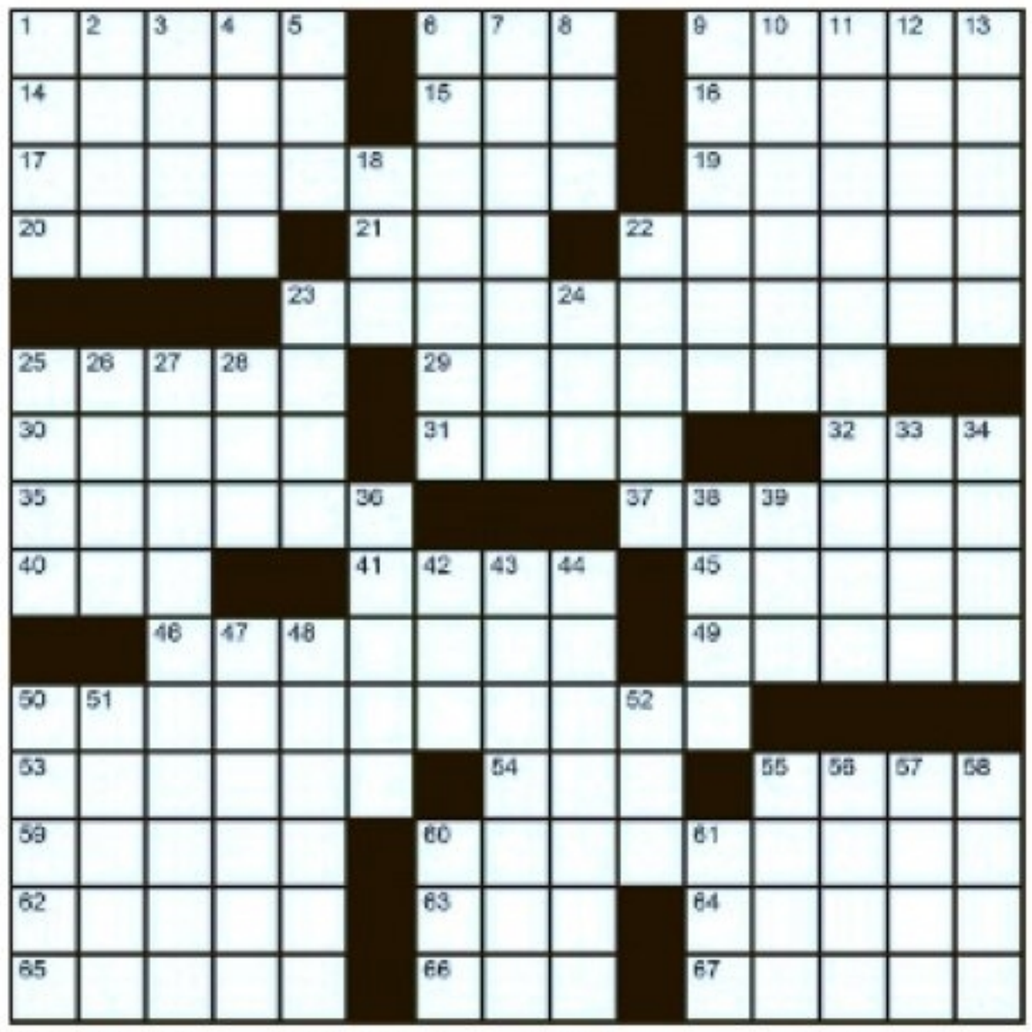
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Full range
6. Reporter's need
9. Financial investments for the future, commonly
14. England: The O2, for one, in London
15. 'Ear'-meaning prefix
16. Other, in Outremont
17. Things to fasten in the car
19. Hair accessory
20. Gloriole
21. Un-truth
22. Comparably lengthy: 2 wds.
23. "The Red Green Show" hangout: 2 wds.
25. Steve Miller Band's "The _"
29. _ _ _ _ Channel (Canadian network delivering around-the-clock headlines)
30. Country rocker Steve
31. Golfing great Mr. Aoki
32. Hebrides hat
35. "The Ren & _ Show" (Cartoon created by #27-Down)
37. Ground sesames paste
40. Canada's buy-from-home network
41. Dwindles
45. Strikes of lightning
46. Eat healthy and exercise ...do this as a result: 2 wds.
49. Comic actor Eric's
50. Quilted gift of honour in Plains cultures: 2 wds.
53. "Oh, well, I'll manage.": 2 wds.
54. Faint
55. Conserve
59. _ _ Cologne
60. Airport-to-limo-to-estate-to-yacht sort
62. Industrial hub in the Ruhr
63. Supper-time scrap
64. Global Warming treaty city in Japan
65. Mixes
66. 'Heir' suffix
67. Montreal's old baseball team

DOWN
1. Large cut
2. "Diamonds _ _ Girl's Best Friend"
3. Dish
4. Posh preposition
5. Diet soft drink
6. College major, commonly: 2 wds.
7. Bears witness
8. Lively parties
9. Compete in the WWE, colloquially
10. Be short on supplies: 2 wds.
11. What time did for that seeming eternity: 2 wds.
12. Tine
13. Swamp plant
18. Fitting-here British gr.
22. "I _ _ the least bit surprised." (Told you so)
23. Get set
24. Lettered sun ray
25. Witticism
26. The Quaker _ Company
27. The 'K.' of Canadian animator John K.'s name
28. Tree type
33. Status quo _ (The way things existed before, in Latin)
34. Leave out
36. Shouts!
38. Somewhat: 2 wds.
39. Load-of-bricks holder
42. Gallery director's deg., perhaps
43. 3-ringed school supplies
44. Caribbean resort isl. near Nevis: 2 wds.
47. Wind, water or ice ...to rock over time
48. "The Beverly Hillbillies" star Buddy's
50. Daggers
51. Browned bread
52. Letters to follow Ells
55. "Mr. Roboto" band
56. On
57. Quash
58. Cupid's Greek counterpart
60. Mr. Pesci
61. Also, archaically

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
If you want to be successful you must be consistent. You may want to change things around but you must either move in a new direction and stay moving in that direction, or resist the temptation altogether.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Are you dissatisfied with your lot? Are your talents are being wasted? If so, do something about it. That means now, not tomorrow or the day after. And it means something real, not just another daydream.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You must push your own needs and desires aside and do what you can to help those who, for whatever reason, are incapable of helping themselves.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something you see or hear will get you thinking along new lines and there's no telling in which direction your thoughts will take you. It's time to leave your comfort zone. There's a whole world out there waiting.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Any doubts you may have about a money matter will be swept aside. Cosmic activity in the wealth area of your chart suggests that if you take a risk it will pay off big time.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Friends can only help you so much — you must have the courage to follow your star. Jupiter in your sign indicates wild success but the day-to-day effort must come from you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Others may counsel caution but if you listen to all those who have something negative to say you would never get much done. Despite their misgivings the world is not all bad.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Sit back, relax and let fate guide you. You may have big ambitions but you don't have to hammer away at them each and every day. Even a Scorpio needs some down time. You certainly will need it today.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It's time to get serious about what you want to accomplish. Never doubt that you have something to offer. You're a Sagittarius — you were born to make a difference.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will eventually get the chance to rise in your work or career, but it will happen sooner if you get in the habit of believing that you deserve to be a leader rather than a follower. Take advantage of new opportunities.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You're worrying too much about planing. Once the ball starts rolling most problems will take care of themselves. And don't try to do it all on your own. There's always someone you can turn to.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Certain people are trying to keep you out of the information loop but today will reveal why they found it hard to confide in you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	2	3			6		7	
8				4				5
1			7					
		5			9			2
	1						4	
7			2			6		
					1			9
4				8				7
	7		5			1	3	

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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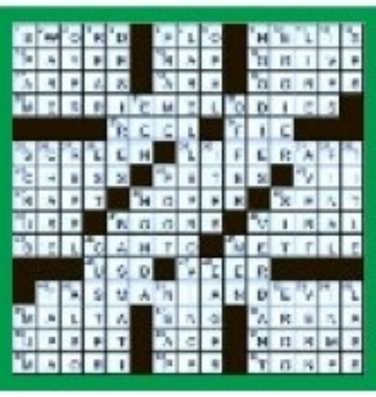

2	1	7	8	3	5	6	4	9
9	6	8	4	2	7	5	3	1
5	3	4	1	6	9	7	2	8
7	8	5	2	9	3	1	6	4
3	2	1	6	4	8	9	5	7
6	4	9	5	7	1	2	8	3
8	9	2	7	5	4	3	1	6
1	5	3	9	8	6	4	7	2
4	7	6	3	1	2	8	9	5

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